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The Danbury House Delegation:
Grace Scire, Bob, and Lewis Wallace
Working Together For You in Hartford!

of only a few ready and willing to step up and be counted. But the help and direction you gave me in your responses to my annual survey earlier this year console me. I opposed the cigarette tax and supported to increase the income tax on the super rich, following the course you set.

I've outlined these steps in this newsletter. If you want more detailed information, or have a comment on any issue, don't hesitate to contact me. And thanks for all your help.

Bob

CALL ME FOR YOUR FREE
COPY OF THIS YEAR'S:
Laws For Seniors • Laws For Children
Education Laws • Environment Laws
Major Public Acts • Laws Deterring Crime
Laws for Businesses

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB GODFREY DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

110TH DISTRICT • DANBURY

Capitol News
2002
Protecting Connecticut



Bob and Deputy Majority
Leader Denise Merrill fine tune
anti-terrorism legislation during
session in the House Chamber.



Bob with Derek Smitt, this
year's YMCA's Youth and Gov-
ernment Youth Governor, dur-
ing Husky Day at the Capitol.
Bob has been the legislative
sponsor of the event that
teaches high school students
about government.



Bob speaking at the Million
Mom's March Rally on the
Capitol steps. Bob was one of
the first legislators to advocate
and pass sensible gun control
laws in Connecticut.

The threat of terrorism in America has increased since the tragedy of September 11th. With the federal government releasing vague alerts, people in this country have very little knowledge or warning where or when a strike may occur. Therefore, the Connecticut General Assembly convened a legislative task force this year to create and implement various provisions to prevent an attack from occurring and establish guidelines if one does occur. As Deputy Majority Leader of the House I was an active member on the task force and crafted some highly important legislation that will protect the neighborhoods of Connecticut. We passed laws that:

- ♦ create the crimes of terrorism and fabricating weapons involving chemicals, disease organisms, or radiation;
- ♦ increase the penalty for hindering prosecution of a person who committed, for terrorist purposes, a class A or B felony or an unclassified felony for which the possible prison term is more than 10 years;
- ♦ create the crimes of (a) damage to public transportation property for terrorist purposes, (b) contaminating a public water or food supply for terrorist purposes, and (c) criminal misrepresentation;
- ♦ increase the penalty for most computer crimes committed to further terrorist purposes;
- ♦ add to the list of crimes that can be the subject of a grand jury investigation or a wiretap order felonies involving the unlawful or threatened use of physical force or violence with intent to intimidate or coerce civilians or a government unit;
- ♦ make increasing prices during an emergency an unfair trade practice; and
- ♦ provide that wiretap evidence obtained validly under federal law is admissible in state court regardless of state wiretap laws.

Other new legislation offers assistance to the victims and establishes methods for honoring and remembering the day and the victims. Specifically, it:

- ♦ requires the Department of Motor Vehicles, beginning January 1, 2003, to issue a commemorative **"United We Stand"** license plate with a design that enhances public solidarity following the terrorist attacks;
- ♦ waives tuition at Connecticut state universities and colleges for surviving spouses and dependent children of Connecticut residents killed in the attacks;
- ♦ exempts victims of these attacks and their estates from the state income tax for the 2001 tax year; and
- ♦ requires the governor annually to proclaim September 11 as **"Remembrance Day"** for the purpose of memorializing those killed and injured, and honoring those who responded to the attacks. (PA 02-126)

WORKING FAMILIES

According to this year's survey, most of you are concerned with the working families of Danbury, primarily meeting the health and education needs of their children. These are some of the laws passed this year to protect families and improve your quality of life.

Minimum Wage

- ◆ Helping families trying to earn a living wage is a priority for Democrats. That's why we passed a bill that increases the minimum wage from \$6.70 to \$6.90 on January 1, 2003 and to \$7.10 on January 1, 2004. In both cases, if 100.5% of the highest federal minimum wage is higher than these amounts, the federal wage becomes the minimum wage. As a result of the increase and the tip credit extension, the minimum wage for hotel and restaurant employees will be \$4.88 and \$5.02 in 2003 and 2004, respectively. For bartenders, it will be \$6.33 in 2003 and \$6.52 in 2004. (PA 02-33)
- ◆ I voted to make general contractors of state and municipal projects to increase the prevailing wage each July 1st for the duration of the contract. The contractor will contact the labor commissioner to obtain the figures each year. (PA 02-69)

Children & Families

Our children and their education are the two greatest investments Connecticut can make. The General Assembly passed several pieces of legislation that protects our kids and enables them to lead healthy, happy and successful lives:

- ◆ The statute of limitations has been extended for sexual assaults on minors to 30 years from the age of 18. This applies to both criminal and civil litigation. The bill also expands the definition of mandated reporter to all people who work with children, including coaches and clergy (PA 02-138 & PA 02-106);
- ◆ Judges and family support magistrates may order parents who are no longer married to support their children's college expenses until the age of 23 (PA 02-128);
- ◆ Restraining orders have been strengthened and the punishments for violating these orders have been increased to ensure the safety of children caught in the middle of violent domestic situations (PA 02-127);
- ◆ New legislation requires schools to adopt and maintain policies that will keep track of bullying behavior and allow anonymous reporting of incidents. Parents and guardians of students involved in verified acts of bullying must be notified. Tacked onto this act is a stipulation that time is made available at all schools to recite the Pledge of Allegiance (PA 02-119);
- ◆ All newborns will be tested for metabolic diseases and protein deficiencies (PA 02-113);
- ◆ Day care providers will be prohibited from denying services to children with allergies or need to use automatic pre-filled cartridge injectors (EpiPens). Providers will be required to have trained staff to administer the shots within three weeks of a special needs child's enrollment. Parents and guardians are responsible for supplying the device and medication (PA 02-84).

Insurance

- ◆ Health insurers must offer policyholders and their dependents the option to continue coverage for 12 months from the time of an accident or severe illness. (PA 02-55)
- ◆ Adopted children will now be eligible for health insurance coverage on the same basis as other dependents. (PA 02-96)

Welfare to Work

To further empower families going from welfare to work, I supported two reforms:

- ◆ We increased the Food Stamp benefit extension allowed for families leaving the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to give them extra help as they start their new jobs.
- ◆ So people have a reliable vehicle to get to work, families will be able to own a car valued at \$9,500 and still qualify for Food Stamps. (PA 02-37)



Bob speaking with students from Danbury at the State Capitol

THE BUDGET & TAXES

I did my job. I joined with my colleagues and adopted a balanced budget. You told me in my annual survey that you opposed cuts to state services and, by a whopping 78%, chose a 1% increase in the income tax rate on millionaires. That was in the budget I voted for.

I cut your taxes for seven years in a row, while times were very good. I warned, however, that we needed to prepare for a rainy day. The Governor didn't. Recently, the super-rich got an enormous federal tax cut, one that did not extend to people like you and me. Now times are tough, and you and I have asked the super-rich to help out with a very small income tax increase, still sufficient to keep your services running. Even they have agreed they would accept it.

But the Governor vetoed it. He is against a small tax increase on the super-rich. He prefers to decimate services to senior citizens, to the disabled, to schools, to children. He wants to shift the tax burden even further onto the unfair property taxes, which are getting so out of whack that taxpayers around our region are in open revolt.

As this report goes to the printer in late June, I am frustrated by the election year games being played by the Governor and his budget chief. I can, however, promise that I will follow your desire to protect our seniors and our kids, keep property taxes from rising as best I can, and maintain an honestly balanced budget.

Bringing Your Tax Dollars Home To Danbury

Although we have not reached an agreement on the budget, I've compared the amount of funding that Danbury will receive from the Governor's proposed budget and the budget I voted for that the Governor vetoed.

These state funds make up approximately 16% of the City of Danbury's total budget. Without these funds, your property tax rate would be 36.20 mils rather than 25.24 mils.

	Governor's Proposed Budget (2002-2003)	Legislative Budget (vetoed)	Difference
PILOT: State Owned Property*	\$1,624,365	\$1,653,474	\$29,108
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals*	\$1,327,975	\$1,382,800	\$54,825
Education Cost Sharing	\$14,629,286	\$15,076,390	\$447,104
Priority School District Grant	\$1,584,124	\$1,584,124	\$0
School Transportation	\$795,179	\$795,179	\$0
Adult Education	\$107,510	\$107,510	\$0
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund**	\$2,361,399	\$2,408,199	\$46,800
Town Aid Road Fund	\$480,905	\$480,905	\$0
Local Capital Improvements	\$491,317	\$491,317	\$0
Total	\$23,402,060	\$23,979,898	\$577,837

Other money for Danbury:

Miscellaneous Grants	\$820,281
School Construction and Improvements	\$195,427
Grant to Ta' Agan Point to Extend Water Service	\$300,000
Western Connecticut State University (development of fields)	\$669,352
Western Connecticut State University (relocation of facilities)	\$447,000



Bob in front of Warner Hall on the Westconn campus

*PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) Connecticut exempts these properties from local taxes, but pays Danbury the listed amount.

**This fund is Danbury's share of the money the state makes from allowing the Pequots and Mohegans a monopoly on slot machines. (Projected state formula grant figures provided by the Office of Fiscal Analysis)

for more info call me at 800-842-1902 or email me at bob.godfrey@po.state.ct.us